

And in 2007, when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle took control of the Congress, CBO said we would have an \$800 billion surplus in 10 years; and after 2 years of their leadership, instead of an \$800 billion surplus in the next 10 years, we're going to have a \$7.8 trillion deficit. Now, they'll try to blame that all on the White House, but they were in charge of the spending because they had control of both Houses of Congress.

Now, there was an article written just yesterday saying the money supply in this country has been increased by three times almost, 271 percent. What does that mean? That means we have almost three times as much money in circulation. It's being hoarded by a lot of people because they're scared to death. But when that money gets into circulation, we're going to have very high inflation. You're going to see the cost of bread and milk and gas and everything go through the roof.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is so much more to tell and so little time. I will be back, and I hope the American people are paying attention, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL TALLOUZI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Daniel Tallouzi of New Mexico's First Congressional District.

Staff Sergeant Tallouzi was a vibrant young Son of Albuquerque and a graduate of Valley High School. He loved to make his family laugh and followed in the honorable footsteps of his three uncles and older brother, Christopher, to serve in the United States military.

Daniel Tallouzi served in the rank of staff sergeant at the young age of 22 until his post at Camp Taji in Baghdad was hit by a mortar explosion in September of 2006. Staff Sergeant Tallouzi suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of that attack, and sadly, he succumbed to that injury this past Saturday. My heart goes out to Staff Sergeant Tallouzi's mother Mary, a single parent who left her job to spend every waking minute at her son's side during his rehabilitation.

Staff Sergeant Tallouzi's death is a tragic reminder that we must do all we can to provide our veterans returning from combat with the very best treatment, counseling and care.

Ms. Tallouzi, on behalf of the people of Daniel's congressional district, I ex-

press my heartfelt condolence to you for the loss of your son and my deepest gratitude for his sacrifice to our country.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INHUMANE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, we live amid an inhumane economy. We need to look no further for proof than the unemployment figures released today from my home State of Michigan, an unemployment number that has climbed to 11.6 percent and has seen tens of thousands of my friends and neighbors lose their jobs.

As people know, Michigan is an automotive and manufacturing State. We get sicker quicker, and we heal more slowly in difficult times. But I encourage them to make no mistake, what happens in Michigan will happen in the rest of America. And we cannot let that continue.

One of the things that has caused the current crisis we are in is a theory. Many of us have heard it. Namely, it is the theory that some institutions are too big to fail. And yet, after the loss of millions of jobs and the expenditure of hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars, we find out that these institutions were, in fact, not too big to fail; they were too big to succeed.

Over the decades, this problem has arisen, and yet, if we look back over those same decades, there were voices of reason warning us that we should seek a more humane economy. And I quote one of those individuals:

"Even as the drive toward bigness (and) concentration . . . has reached heights never before dreamt of in the past, we have come suddenly to realize how heavy a price we have paid: in overcrowding and pollution of the atmosphere, and impersonality; in growth of organizations, particularly government, so large and powerful that individual effort and importance seem lost; and in loss of the values of nature and community and local diversity that found their nurture in the smaller towns and rural areas of America. And we can see . . . that the price has been too high. Bigness, loss of community, organizations and society grown far past the human scale—these are the besetting sins which threaten to paralyze our very capacity to act, or our ability to preserve the traditions and values of our past in a time of swirling, constant change.

□ 1945

"Therefore, the time has come when we must actively fight bigness and

overconcentration, and seek instead to bring the engines of government, of technology, of the economy, fully under the control of our citizens, to recapture and reinforce the values of a more human time and place.

"It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community to better their lives and their children's future. It is the lesson that government can follow the leadership of private citizens; that men who are citizens in the full sense of the word need not belong to the government in order to benefit their community. And it is the lesson that if this country is to move ahead, it will not be by making everything bigger, not by piling all our people further on top of one another in huge cities, not by reducing the citizen to the role of passive consumer and recipient of the official vision, the official product." These were the words spoken on September 17, 1966 of the junior Senator from New York, Robert Francis Kennedy.

Today, as we seek a better world and a more humane economy, we should remember his words. For after trillions of dollars in potential government expenditures, the amassing and concentration of power in Washington, we can see that we are no better off, as the unemployment figures in Michigan portend. What we really have to do is realize that as the dot-com bubble was replaced by the housing bubble, we must not attempt to replace the housing bubble with a government bubble. For when that bubble bursts, what will be left?

What we need to do is seek a way to free the entrepreneurial spirit of the American people, to allow them, with their own hands and genius, to rebuild their lives, to rebuild and restore order, opportunity, and prosperity to our chaotic economy, and to preserve the cherished America we all call home. We will.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Here we are for yet another Progressive Caucus, progressive message coming to the American people to articulate a progressive vision for the society that we live in.

I'm so happy to be talking about the progressive message today. And I'm going to be joined by our chairwoman, who is none other than Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, and I look forward to having a very robust dialogue today.

Well, it's budget time, time to discuss the budget. And what better time than budget time to talk about how we're going to reshape our budget in a progressive and effective way that will reflect the needs and wants of the American people. Budget time, where we look at things, where we set our priorities, and where we really examine where we're going.

Tonight we're going to focus on a particular part of the budget. We're going to talk about the defense budget and the need for reform, to review what we've been spending our money on, to make sure that while we absolutely protect the American people, that we do not spend so much money that the American people really can't afford it, and that we try to get that peace dividend that after the fall of the Soviet Union we all thought we would be realizing. This is what we're going to talk about tonight with the progressive message, which we come to you with every single week.

The progressive message tonight: The budget. Tonight: The defense appropriation and how this particular end of the budget needs to be cut so that we, as Americans, can have the money we need to not only keep America safe, but also to keep America in the black and not in the red. Very important dialogue tonight.

Let me invite our chairwoman, LYNN WOOLSEY, to have some open remarks. I yield to the gentlelady from the great State of California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as co-Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, it is my honor to be here again tonight with Congressman ELLISON and other members of the Progressive Caucus who will come down to talk about the Federal budget and our progressive priorities.

When we talk about the budget, it's easy for people to have their eyes just glaze over because they automatically think we're going to be talking about a

bunch of numbers on a page. But, you know, this budget and every budget is so much more than that. While you will hear a bunch of numbers being thrown around here for the next hour, the important thing that must be remembered is that all of these figures represent what we believe. They represent what we, as a Nation, have as our priorities, what that says to every citizen of this country and every nation around the world.

The funding decisions that are included in the budget are the choices that every Member of Congress must make on what our priorities as a country should be for the next—not 1 year, but 10 years. These are choices that affect the lives of every single American. It is choices like whether or not we ensure that everyone will receive adequate health care, or whether or not we build yet another weapons system that we don't need. And these choices speak as loudly as anything on who we are as a Nation. That's why it's so important to talk about this and to understand what the numbers in the budget mean for our constituents, and to let them know that all this isn't set in stone, but that there are real choices to be made.

For the past 2 years, and again this year, the Progressive Caucus will be offering a full budget alternative, an alternative that will bring defense spending under control, that will balance our tax code to ensure that everyone is paying their fair share, and invests in renewable energy, in education, transportation, housing, veterans benefits, and health care for all.

These are our priorities; they're priorities that we, as progressives, have laid out. And I look forward to discussing all this with my progressive colleague, Mr. ELLISON, and others who are here tonight.

Mr. ELLISON. All right. Well, it's good to be here again. Thanks for getting us started.

Let me invite Congressman POLIS from the great State of—

Mr. POLIS. Colorado.

Mr. ELLISON. Colorado. Congressman POLIS, forgive my lack of sharpness on that point. But you're a welcomed friend tonight, and we want to thank you.

Would you like to make some opening comments as we begin to talk about the progressive message, the progressive budget, and we're going to be focusing on responsible defense spending tonight?

Mr. POLIS. Yes, I do. Thank you so much to my colleague from Minnesota. I'm a new member of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. And we're honored to have you.

Mr. POLIS. I am pleased to inform my colleagues that we have joined as of yesterday. And I'm particularly thrilled that we're willing to look at defense spending as part of the overall picture. It's hard to have a real route to fiscal responsibility and balancing

our budget without looking at defense spending. And whether we're looking at 3 years or 5 years or 10 years out, this is going to be a critical component of the return to fiscal responsibility. I look forward to being a voice for that within the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. Well, Congressman POLIS, you are a very welcomed voice. We agree wholeheartedly.

You know, the American people may be under the mistaken impression that the more money you spend on defense, the more secure you're going to be. Well, tonight we're going to talk about how that isn't true.

What I want to do is start out by quoting our President, Barack Obama, in his first address to Congress last Tuesday. He said, "We will eliminate the no-bid contracts that have wasted billions in Iraq and reform our defense budget so that we're not paying for Cold War era weapons systems we don't use. At the risk of repetition let me just say, "We will eliminate the no-bid contracts that we have wasted billions in Iraq and reform our defense budget so that we are not paying for Cold War era weapons systems we don't use."

When I quote that statement of our President, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, what sort of thoughts come to mind for you?

Ms. WOOLSEY. Well, the first thought that comes to my mind is, the Cold War is over, it's been over for a long time, and why are we still investing in weapons systems and equipment to fight the second generation of Russian weapons that aren't even being produced in Russia? Why are we doing that? What is it costing us? And what can we do with that money instead of wasting it?

Mr. ELLISON. Well, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, you know every dollar spent is a dollar earned by somebody. And I imagine that these weapons systems may be quite a pretty penny for some people.

Congressman POLIS, when I read that quote from our President—you were here last Tuesday night—what sort of thoughts come to you right away?

Mr. POLIS. Well, you know, there comes a point when more spending equals less security. And you need to look at the whole picture, including the diplomatic picture with regard to foreign aid, with regard to helping developing nations, with regard to promoting peace in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Mr. ELLISON. Well, I think that's dead on the mark.

I want to say that, just yesterday, President Obama began by making good on his promise by signing the Presidential memorandum that will reform government by contracting. What this memorandum talks about is strengthening oversight and management of taxpayer dollars, ending unnecessary no-bid, cost-plus contracts, and maximizing the use of competitive procurement processes and clarifying the rules prescribing when outsourcing is and is not appropriate.